

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGE OF WATER RIGHTS AND WATER PERMITS

UNITED WATER IDAHO INC. (UW), PO Box 7488, Boise ID 83707 has filed 99 Applications for Transfer of Water Rights (Licenses and Statutory Claims) and 13 Applications for Amendment (Permits). For convenience, water rights and water permits are referred to as “rights” in this notice. The 112 applications are known as the Integrated Municipal Application Package (IMAP) and are based on existing uses and the Idaho Municipal Water Rights Act of 1996 (ACT). The Act allows municipal providers to hold water rights for “reasonably anticipated future needs” within a planning period to accommodate growth in municipal service areas. IMAP will conform UW rights to the Act. IMAP also makes minor corrections to a few of the rights.

UW documented a 50 year planning period for IMAP, including estimates of population growth and increased water needs. UW anticipates a water demand of about 420 cfs within 50 years. Existing UW rights describe about 310 cfs, although current peak demand is about 150 cfs. The difference between the rate currently described by the rights (about 310 cfs) and the current peak flow (about 150 cfs) is about 160 cfs. UW requests approval to hold about 160 cfs for future growth. Approximately 100 to 120 additional cfs may need to be acquired by UW within the planning period, but that additional water is not sought by IMAP.

All of the rights describe a ground water source except one Boise River right for 24.8 cfs diverted at the Marden Street Treatment Plant near Municipal Park in Boise. The rights bear priority dates from 1934 through 1999. About 75% of the rights describe municipal use in variously described service areas such as the City of Boise, within city limits of Boise and vicinity, and so forth. About 25% of the rights list various combinations of domestic, irrigation and fire protection uses in specific locations or in generally described service areas. Most ground water rights include a single well although some include multiple wells. UW currently has about 107 authorized well sites for its 111 ground water rights. Most of the sites already have a well drilled under prior Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) approval. Most of the rights serve the Boise area. A few of the rights serve non-contiguous areas in and/or near Eagle, Meridian, Kuna and Nampa.

PROPOSED CHANGE

If approved, IMAP will change the rights as follows. Each well in the municipal system will provide an alternate point of diversion for each ground water right. In other words, each ground water right will list all the wells as possible points of diversion, but each well will retain its original priority date for purposes of well interference. The Boise River right will be diverted at Marden Street and/or at an existing pump station by the Hwy 21 bridge near Diversion Dam.

Nature of use for all rights will be municipal. Season of use for all rights will be all year. Place of use for all rights will be the UW expanding service area. Diversion rates

for rights presently limited by annual volume will be adjusted downward to a continuous flow rate sufficient to produce the annual volume. About 50% of the total flow rate authorized by the rights is required to meet demand today. The balance will serve long term water demand within the 50 year planning horizon.

Total amount of water to be authorized for use under the rights will be about 295 cfs, a slight reduction in the amount presently authorized for use. The river permit will provide up to 24.8 cfs of the proposed total, with the balance to be provided from wells. Two new well sites are proposed in Boise: near Hwy 21 southeast of Harris Ranch, and near the Maple Grove/Franklin intersection.

More information about IMAP can be obtained from IDWR Western Region, 2735 Airport Way, Boise, ID 83705-5082 or via the Internet (see "Special Interest" items at IDWR homepage www.idwr.state.id.us). Printed copies of IMAP can be reviewed at any IDWR office. Protests may be submitted based on the criteria of Sections 42-222 (transfers) or 42-211 (amendments), Idaho Code. Any protest against the proposed change must be filed, together with a protest fee of \$25, at the IDWR Western Region office on or before April 22, 2002. The protestant must also send a copy of the protest to the applicant.

Karl J. Dreher, Director

Published on April 4 and 11, 2002.